(b) if so, the details of such cases are pending for the last three years as on the 1st April, 2006;

(c) whether Government propose to appoint more judicial officers in the capital for the expeditious disposal of the pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when such officers are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The details of civil and criminal cases pending in lower courts of Delhi for last 3 years as on 1st April, 2006 are as under:—

| Sl. No. | Nature of cases | Pendency as on | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1.4.04 | 1.4.05 | 1.4.06 |
| 1. | Criminal cases | 326114 | 400988 | 464097 |
| 2. | Civil cases | 141565 | 131368 | 131972 |

(c) and (d) Filling up of vacancies of judicial officers for the lower courts is a matter that concerns State Governments. In the case of Union Territory of Delhi, the Central Government has declared all the powers of creation of posts from Group A to Group D to the Government of Delhi.

**Legal status of euthanasia**

†630. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to give legal status to euthanasia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any applications for euthanasia; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Till date law has not permitted euthanasia and application for the same cannot be entertained.

**New mining policy**

631. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a new mining policy aimed at attracting domestic and foreign investment to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh crore;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is in touch with the Planning Commission to prepare the inputs for the new policy;

(c) if so, by when the new policy is likely to be framed and announced; and

(d) the main feature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission has forwarded a report of the High Level Committee set up to consider review of the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the sector. The Report has been received on 20.7.2006 and is under consideration.

**Mining of iron-ore in Surajgarh**

†632. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications have been received for mining of iron-ore deposits in Surajgarh near Garhchiroli- Chandrapur district of Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.